

Remarks

Claims 1-61 and 73-75 are currently pending in the Application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allows claims 24-61, 74 and 75. Applicants present those claims in identical form in the present response.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 20-22 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner explains that claims 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants herein amend claims 20-22 to independent form including the limitations of the single claim from which they each depend, claim 1. Accordingly, amended claims 20-22 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants herein add new claims 76 and 77, which depend from claims 20 and 21, respectively. Claims 76 and 77 recite the limitation that "a catalyst is disposed within the fluid conducting tube". That limitation is fully supported by the application as filed. See, for example, original claim 15. Given that claims 76 and 77 depend from claims 20 and 21, respectively, which are in condition for allowance, claims 76 and 77 also are in condition for allowance.

Applicants herein also add new dependent claims 78-95. New claims 78-94 each directly or ultimately depend from claim 22 as amended herein and recite limitations substantially as recited in original claims 2-19, respectively. New claim 95 depends from claim 22 as amended and recites limitations of original claim 73. Thus, new claims 78-95 find support in the application as filed. Also, since each of dependent

claims 78-95 directly or ultimately depends from amended claim 22, which is in an allowable form, new claims 78-95 also are in condition for allowance.

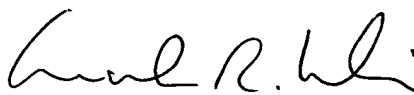
Applicants also make minor amendments herein to claims 60, 61 and 74, and each such amendment is fully supported by the application as filed.

In the Office Action the Examiner maintains the prior rejection of claims 1-19, 23 and 73. Applicants do not concede that the Examiner's rejections are proper. Nevertheless, for the purpose of facilitating an early allowance of claims in the Application and an early grant of a patent thereon, Applicants herein cancel claims 1-19, 23 and 73. Applicants reserve the right to further prosecute in a continuing application claims directed to subject matter having the same and/or similar scope as claims 1-19, 23 and 73. Thus, Applicants' cancellation herein of claims 1-19, 23 and 73 is not and may not be considered a concession that the Examiner's rejection of these claims is proper, and is done without prejudice to Applicants' ability to pursue allowance of the same or similar claims in a continuing application.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance indicating that all claims pending in the application are allowed. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any remaining concerns so that those concerns may be expeditiously addressed without the need for issuance of a further office action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark R. Leslie", written over a horizontal line.

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